

State Water Resources Control Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 8, 2005
 SWRCB 05-009

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STATE INVITES PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PROCESS FOR NEW STATEWIDE REGULATIONS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

SACRAMENTO - The State Water Board invites the public to participate in the environmental study of a proposed regulatory program for the statewide regulation of septic systems.

These systems include septic tank systems and similar onsite wastewater treatment systems.

To encourage participation, six scoping meetings will be held to develop the scope and content for an environmental impact report (EIR).

Scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times and locations:

City	Place	Address	Date	Time
Riverside	Art Pick Council Chamber	3900 Main St.	Thursday, July 14	7 p.m.
Santa Rosa	North Coast Regional Water Board Hearing Room	5550 Skyline Blvd. Suite A	Monday, July 18	7 p.m.
Malibu	Council Chambers	City Hall 23815 Stuart Ranch Road	Tuesday, July 19	7 p.m.
Sacramento	Coastal Hearing Room, 2 nd floor, Cal-EPA Building	1001 I St.	Wednesday, July 20	7 p.m.
Redding	City of Redding Community Room	777 Cypress Ave.	Thursday, July 21	7 p.m.

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As lead agency for this environmental review process, the Water Board will be releasing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft EIR for public review on **June 8, 2005**.

The NOP describes the proposed regulatory program and encourages the public and government agencies to submit written comments on the proposed content of the EIR. The NOP describes the proposed project, the environmental effects possible, and announces the start of the environmental review process. The draft regulations also include groundwater monitoring requirements at the transfer of property ownership for systems near domestic wells and requirements for systems near to water bodies identified as impaired.

The Water Board is required to develop septic system regulations pursuant to *Section 13291 of the California Water Code (Statutes passed as Assembly Bill 885, Statutes 2000)*. These systems treat and dispose wastewater below ground. These systems usually provide this convenience at or near the source of the wastewater. Examples of such systems include septic tanks, leachfields, seepage pits and other innovative systems. While some systems may protect water quality and public health, other systems pose a significant threat to water quality and risk to public health.

Copies of the NOP can be downloaded **after** June 8, 2005 from the Water Board's Web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ab885/index.html#PageTop>, or by contacting Todd Thompson, P.E. at (916) 341-5518.

All comments on the NOP must be received by **August 8, 2005**, and can be sent to Mr. Thompson at the Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812.

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